

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A computer accessible medium comprising a plurality of instructions which, when executed:

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present a graphical view of a first computer system configuration comprising a first plurality of computer system resources;

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present a graphical view of a second computer system configuration comprising a second plurality of computer system resources; and

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provide a mechanism to capture data representing at least a first resource of the first plurality of computer system resources from the first computer system configuration and insert the data in the second computer system configuration.

2. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the mechanism comprises a drag and drop mechanism.

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3. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the mechanism comprises a copy and paste mechanism.

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4. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the mechanism comprises a wizard configured to guide a user through a set of steps to capture and insert.

5. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 4 wherein the set of steps further comprises providing the user with an opportunity to modify one or more properties of the first resource.

6. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further provide a mechanism to modify one or more properties of the first resource.
- 5 7. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the first plurality of computer system resources comprises a first layout of one or more volumes on one or more storage devices, and wherein the second plurality of computer system resources comprises a second layout of one or more volumes on one or more storage devices.
- 10 8. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 7 wherein the mechanism captures data representing a first volume from the first layout and inserts the data in the second layout.
- 15 9. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 8 wherein the mechanism permits modification of one or more attributes of the first volume.
- 20 10. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 7 wherein the first computer system configuration corresponds to a backed-up computer system and the second computer system configuration corresponds to a computer system that the backup is being restored to.
- 25 11. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 7 wherein the first computer system configuration is a current configuration of a computer system, and wherein the second computer system configuration is a new configuration to be applied to the computer system.
12. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the second computer system configuration is a proposed configuration being developed by a user, and wherein modifications to the second computer system configuration are displayed in the graphical

view but are not implemented on a target computer system until the user commits the modifications.

13. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the first computer  
5 system configuration is a default configuration and the second computer system configuration is developed by a user.

14. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the plurality of  
instructions, when executed, further provide an automatic mapping of resources from the  
10 first computer system configuration to the second computer system configuration.

15. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the plurality of  
instructions, when executed, further provide a mapping of resources from the first  
computer system configuration to the second computer system configuration, wherein the  
15 mapping includes attempting to optimize one or more user-selected properties.

16. A method comprising:

presenting a graphical view of a first computer system configuration comprising a  
20 first plurality of computer system resources;

presenting a graphical view of a second computer system configuration  
comprising a second plurality of computer system resources; and

25 providing a mechanism to capture data representing at least a first resource of the  
first plurality of computer system resources from the first computer system  
configuration and insert the data in the second computer system  
configuration.

17. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the mechanism comprises a drag and drop mechanism.

18. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the mechanism comprises a wizard  
5 configured to guide a user through a set of steps to capture and insert.

19. The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising providing a mechanism to modify one or more properties of the first resource.

10 20. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the second computer system configuration is a proposed configuration being developed by a user, the method further comprising:

displaying modifications to the second computer system configuration in the  
graphical view; and

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implementing the modifications on a target computer system responsive to the user committing the modifications.

21. The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising automatically mapping  
20 resources from the first computer system configuration to the second computer system configuration.

22. The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising mapping resources from the first computer system configuration to the second computer system configuration, the  
25 mapping comprising attempting to optimize one or more user-selected properties.

23. A computer system configured, during use, to present a user of the computer system with graphical views of a first computer system configuration comprising a first plurality of computer system resources and a second computer system configuration comprising a

second plurality of computer system resources, and wherein the computer system is further configured to provide the user with a mechanism to capture data representing at least a first resource of the first plurality of computer system resources from the first computer system configuration and insert the data in the second computer system configuration.

24. The computer system as recited in claim 23 wherein the first computer system configuration and the second computer system configuration are configurations of the computer system.

25. The computer system as recited in claim 23 wherein the first computer system configuration and the second computer system configuration are configurations of a target computer system to which the computer system is coupled during use.

26. The computer system as recited in claim 23 further configured to provide the user with a mechanism to modify one or more properties of the first resource.

27. The computer system as recited in claim 23 wherein the second computer system configuration is a proposed configuration being developed by the user, and wherein the computer system is configured to display modifications to the second computer system configuration in the graphical view of the second computer system configuration, and wherein the computer system is configured to implement the modifications on a target computer system responsive to the user committing the modifications.

28. A computer accessible medium comprising a plurality of instructions which, when executed:

present a graphical view of a first configuration comprising a first one or more volumes mapped to a first one or more storage devices;

present a graphical view of a second configuration comprising a second one or more volumes to a second one or more storage devices; and

5           provide a mechanism to capture data representing at least a first volume from the first configuration and insert the data in the second configuration.

29. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the mechanism comprises a drag and drop mechanism.

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30. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the mechanism comprises a copy and paste mechanism.

31. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the mechanism  
15 comprises a wizard configured to guide a user through a set of steps to capture and insert.

32. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further provide a mechanism to modify one or more attributes of the first volume.

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32. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the first configuration corresponds to a backed-up computer system and the second configuration corresponds to a computer system that the backup is being restored to.

25   33. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the first configuration is a current configuration of a computer system, and wherein the second configuration is a new configuration to be applied to the computer system.

34. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the second

configuration is a proposed configuration being developed by a user, and wherein modifications to the second configuration are displayed in the graphical view but are not implemented on a target computer system until the user commits the modifications.

5     35. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further provide an automatic mapping of from the first configuration to the second configuration.

10     36. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 28 wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further provide a mapping from the first configuration to the second configuration, including attempting to optimize one or more user-selected properties.